



OFFICE OF MAYOR ANDY SCHOR

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Mayor Proposes Recreational Marihuana Regulation

Proposal to Regulate Recreational Marihuana Sent to City Council

(LANSING) – Mayor Andy Schor has proposed an amendment to the City of Lansing’s Marihuana Ordinance which would add recreational marihuana to the types of licensed marihuana businesses within the city. The State of Michigan recently released emergency rules that allow any medical marihuana license holder in the state of Michigan to be approved for a recreational license in Lansing; the City of Lansing will not be a part of the licensing process unless it finalizes a regulatory structure for recreational marihuana by November 1, 2019.

“Lansing voters overwhelmingly supported the legalization of recreational Marihuana and we need a system that will appropriately regulate the number and location of dispensaries within the city,” said Mayor Schor. “The proposed amendment we sent to council ensures that we can allow the recreational and medical usage of marihuana in Lansing as supported by the voters, while also preventing an overabundance of locations of dispensaries in Lansing.”

The State of Michigan issued its emergency rules regarding recreational marihuana earlier this month. The Marijuana Regulatory Agency will begin accepting applications from Michigan residents for Class A Growers and Marihuana Microbusinesses; from current medical marihuana license holders for Marihuana Retailers, Processors, Class B and C Growers, and Secure Transporters; and from anyone for a Marihuana Safety Compliance Facilities beginning November 1, 2019.

The ordinance proposed by Mayor Schor will limit the number of recreational and medical dispensary licenses to 28 locations in total throughout the city. It will modify regulation of provisioning centers and marihuana retailers to be based on the number of locations, rather than the number of licenses. Meaning, a single location could have both a medical and recreational license to dispense marijuana. The proposed amendment eliminates specialized variances and removes redundancies with State law in order to improve efficiency in processing applications. The scoring criteria for marihuana business licenses will also be updated based upon the experience and feedback received during the licensing process for medical marihuana. This amendment would not apply to the current medical marihuana phase 2.

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City Council will receive and refer the ordinance to committee on Monday, July 22, 2019. The ordinance will then go through the City's Planning Board and Council's process for approval. The Mayor's Office and City Council will work together to finalize the ordinance before November 1, 2019.

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